

## REMARKS

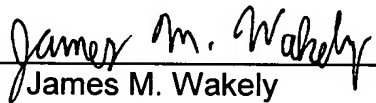
Claims 18-47 are pending. Claims 18 and 28 have been amended. Claims 38-47 have been added. Prior to examination of the above-identified continuation application, please enter this Preliminary Amendment. No new matter has been added. Please also enter the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) and consider the two accompanying references.

Applicant requests an action on the merits. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call either of the undersigned attorneys at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the Examiner believe that such a telephone conference would advance prosecution of the application.

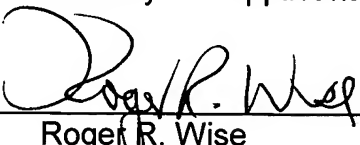
Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

Date: August 21, 2003

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